

GREAT CIVIL WAR MENACES RUSSIA

Reds in West and Royalists in East Preparing for Decisive Battles

EXPECT MOVE BY SPRING

Siberia in Utter Chaos and Trains Move Without Organization or Schedule

By CARL W. ACKERMAN

Special Cable to Evening Public Ledger Copyright, 1918, by New York Times Co. (All Foreign Rights Reserved) On the Way to Vladivostok, Dec. 15 (Delayed)

Divided between east and west, as America was between North and South during the Civil War, Russia is today making a new start toward organization.

Russia's civil war has reached a period where decisive battles are in preparation between the Bolsheviks in the east and the militarist and monarchist party in the west.

While Lenin has announced plans for a red army of 2,000,000 men by spring, General Kolchak, co-operating with General Denikin near Kiev, General Buroff in the Urals and the Siberian forces loyal to the Omsk dictatorship, plans another army to fight the Bolsheviks next year.

Russia is a nation divided against itself, an empire of chaos, financially bankrupt, economically starved and war-weary. It is nearer collapse than regeneration.

Not a Fight for Freedom A distressing and disappointing feature in that Russia's civil war is not a fight for freedom, but a contest for power between anarchy on the one hand and militarism on the other.

Having conversed with scores of Russians, Czechs and Allies, and traveled thousands of miles investigating conditions, I find no indications of Russian democracy since the overthrow of the all-Russian Government.

If the Bolsheviks win in the final crash, Russia and Siberia will remain anarchistic for some time. If the present dictators succeed, the Czar's intimate friend, Denikin, will be named dictator of the new monarchy that will be proclaimed.

In this civil strife all nations are involved, from Germany and Austria in European Russia to England and France and the Czechs in the Urals, with England, France and Japan playing the chief roles and pursuing definite purposes and America an interested spectator.

Halfway Will Be Useless Soon With the present lack of repairs and lubricants many railroads say that within a month the Trans-Siberian Railway will be virtually useless, without supplies of rolling stock to take the place of that worn and damaged. Thousands of civilians travel in box cars. Coaches are confiscated by roving armies, Cossacks, dictators and special missions.

The front today is a stationary line following the cities. The Czechs hold Petropavovsk, Ekaterinburg, Ufa and Orenburg, but on both sides of the lines

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Nine River Steamers Seized by Army of Occupation for Purpose

FAVOR EARLY ASSEMBLY

Rhineland Wants to See Federation of German States Formed by National Body

By EDWIN L. JAMES

Special Cable to Evening Public Ledger Copyright, 1918, by New York Times Co. (All Foreign Rights Reserved) Cologne, Dec. 23

The American Third Army is mildly excited over a rumor that it is to be relieved by the Second Army as the occupation force about February 1.

According to rumors the Third Army is to be taken home by way of the Rhine River.

The United States has a fleet on the Rhine. Nine river steamers which have been taken over by the American army of occupation will be armed and used as a patrol on a stretch of the Rhine along the Coblenz bridgehead.

The Stars and Stripes were hoisted over these ships Saturday. General Dickman's private boat will be the flagship of the fleet.

In German territory occupied by the Americans interest in the Berlin convention of Workmen's Councils is almost all the only concern being in the fixing of the date for a meeting of the National Assembly, to which the greatest importance is attached. As for other decisions of the workmen's councils, the Rhineland appears not to care.

Differences With Prussia The Rhineland has differences with Prussia, which controlled the old Government and perhaps desired to present these differences to the national assembly, but not to the workmen's councils. In conservative Rhineland the workmen's councils did not make much headway, and they do not amount to a great deal. The Bolshevik element is negligible.

The role of the workmen's councils may be illustrated by the cases of Coblenz and Treves, two cities in the American area. When news of the formation of workmen's councils reached the Rhine Valley Burgomaster Clostermann, of Coblenz, called the heads of the trades unions to his office and said that every other city seemed to be forming workmen's councils, Coblenz might as well have one.

The union leaders agreed with him and asked him to help form one, which he did, refusing the chairmanship, but retaining by political means a good hold on the body, which does about as he wishes.

In Treves the Burgomaster still controls things through a hand-picked Workmen's Council. This suits the people, which while anti-Prussian, are not revolutionary by nature, but ultra-conservative.

Rhineland Not Anti-German But to say that the Rhineland is anti-Prussian does not mean that it is anti-German. Far from it. To say that the Rhineland wants to form an independent republic does not mean that it is anti-German. It wants to be an independent State, independent of Prussia, but a State belonging to a union of German States, as each American State belongs to the federation. Interviews with perhaps 100 citizens convince me that the Rhineland does not wish to be independent of Germany, nor does it want to belong to France.

Many differences between the Rhineland and Prussia antedate the war. The Rhineland holds that taxes were unproportionately distributed and political offices were not fairly apportioned, and then there is the old religious question, the Rhineland being intensely Catholic and opposing Protestant Prussia's aim of divorcing religion from civil affairs, and especially secularizing the schools.

These matters the Rhineland seeks to bring before the National Assembly, but not before a convention of Workmen's Councils.

Old Warrant Traps Philadelphian Allentown, Pa., Dec. 23.—When A. J. Kuzner, a Jewellite, walked into the office of Alexander William K. Bower, of Allentown, to sell him stocks in a mining concern the magistrate recalled he held a warrant for the arrest of Kuzner on a charge of stealing \$500 worth of jewelry in Catasauqua a year ago. Kuzner is now in jail.

ITALY INCREASING PEACE DEMANDS

"Victory Greater Than Expected. We Want More," Says Officer

WANT WHOLE ADRIATIC

Orlando and Sonnino Return Home After Interviews With President Wilson

By CHARLES A. SELDEN

Special Cable to Evening Public Ledger Copyright, 1918, by New York Times Co. Paris, Dec. 23

Premier Orlando and Baron Sonnino, the Italian foreign minister, left Paris last night by a special train, which was expected to connect at the Italian frontier with that of the King, on his way home from the west front, so that they might travel with him to Rome.

They will return to Paris in January in ample time for the beginning of the peace parleys of the American, British, French and Italian delegates. They will be accompanied by other members of the Italian delegation, not yet announced, but speculation names Diaz, Marconi and Nitti.

In the course of their three days in Paris, ending last night, Orlando and Sonnino followed their King in having a talk with President Wilson, and they had several conferences with Premier Clemenceau, as they had with Premier Lloyd George a week or so ago in London.

The differences growing out of the Italian demands are still far from adjusted, and Sonnino is absolutely determined to yield nothing; but the best opinion is that the Adriatic question will be settled without war between the Italians and Jugo-Slavs.

The Italian psychology of victory, as explained to me today by an Italian army officer attached to the peace work in Paris, is like this: "We have won a great victory and insist upon the fruits of it. We have crushed Austria more completely than we had dared to hope. So, as our victory is far greater than we or our allies expected, we want more than we first asked when we entered the war. It is a natural human feeling to expect an added reward when achievement exceeds expectations.

"Of course, we insist upon everything promised us by the London treaty of 1915, but we now ask more. In short, the whole Adriatic—the east coast as well as the west—should be Italian, save for the parts which we are perfectly willing to grant to the Jugo-Slavs. We want that, and also an improved position with reference to Abyssinia.

"Many of these Jugo-Slavs who would now take to themselves what Italy rightly won by her part in the war, are really Austrians. They are our ancient enemies, now trying to disguise themselves as the people of an oppressed nation.

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BOLSHEVIK ARMY DEFEATED

Loyal Russians Win on Border. Siberia Stands by Kolchak

Washington, Dec. 23.—Defeat of the Bolshevik army on the Ekaterinburg front has made here of the Allied operations in the east a rebirth, but as long as they continue to be divided Russia will continue to decay and crumble.

Basicly there is the same criticism to be made here of the Allied operations as there was before the German offensive last March. If the Allies unite in Russia they can defeat Bolshevism and help Russia to a rebirth, but as long as they continue to be divided Russia will continue to decay and crumble.

Among neither Cossacks nor the Russians does one find a very high opinion of American military operations. It is held in no favorable comment during my whole journey, but there was much criticism, which it is, perhaps, not wise to repeat.

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